



CHAPTER 18

Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

This chapter begins with a discussion of diplomacy and the allied notion of “statecraft.” Contrary to Eurocentric accounts of diplomacy, its long history probably began in ancient China; however, any survey of this history inevitably pays close attention to developments in Europe since the time of the Renaissance. The chapter thus includes an analysis of the “Concert of Europe,” an early attempt to settle European disputes through regular meetings of key diplomats rather than active hostilities. A section of the chapter is devoted to “Cold War Diplomacy,” showing how the world came to the brink of nuclear destruction in a succession of crises, which were defused by diplomacy. The chapter distinguishes between diplomacy and foreign policy, which is taken to denote the longer-term strategy of a state. It includes sections on the “summit diplomacy,” which was made possible by greater ease of transport; the European Union’s attempts to establish a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP); and “public diplomacy,” an exercise in “soft power” through which states seek to influence public opinion in other countries. A survey of diplomacy in the contemporary world broadens the perspective by noting the growing importance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as states.

Chapter Outline

- **Diplomacy and Statecraft in International History**
- **Diplomacy in the Contemporary World**
- **Cold War Diplomacy**
- **Summit Diplomacy**
- **Public Diplomacy**
- **Foreign Policy**
- **The EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy**
- **Conclusion**

Key Terms

Balance of power
Concert of Europe
Détente
Foreign policy
Good governance

Hegemony
Machtpolitik (power politics)
National interest
Nationalism
Power politics

Sovereignty
Statecraft
Track two diplomacy

Discussion Questions

1. What were the historical conditions in which modern forms of diplomacy developed? Do conditions today call for a reconfiguration of the forms of diplomacy? If so, what might this look like?
2. What is MAD and how did it work? Are there ideas behind it that are relevant today?
3. Is there a difference between public diplomacy and propaganda? If so, what is it?
4. What is the difference between diplomacy and foreign policy?
5. Is the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy a success or not? Explain your position.
6. What are some of the protocols and practices of indigenous diplomacies?
7. What constitutes Cold War diplomacy?
8. Why do Canada and the US have a special relationship?

Further Resources

- <http://www.international.gc.ca/international/index.aspx?lang=eng&view=d>
Home page of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Canada
- <http://publicdiplomacy.org/pages/>
Home page for the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association
- <http://www.embassymag.ca/>
Embassy Magazine—Canada's influential foreign policy newspaper
- http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/index_en.htm
European Union web site with information relevant to the CFSP

- http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/mutdef.asp
Original source documents relevant to Cold War diplomacy, presented by the Avalon Project
- <http://www.international.gc.ca/ifait-iaeci/index.aspx?lang=eng>
Canadian Foreign Service